Senate File 519 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 519 BY WAHLS

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act establishing a pandemic response review committee.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

S.F. 519

- 1 Section 1. <u>NEW SECTION</u>. 2.70 Pandemic response review 2 committee.
- A pandemic response review committee is established
 which shall meet as provided in subsection 3.
- 5 2. a. The committee shall consist of the chair and ranking
- 6 member of the house government oversight committee, the
- 7 chair and ranking member of the senate government oversight
- 8 committee, the attorney general or the attorney general's
- 9 designee, the auditor of state or the auditor of state's
- 10 designee, a chair of the division of infectious disease of the
- 11 department of internal medicine of the university of Iowa, and
- 12 such other persons as the legislative council deems necessary.
- b. Except as provided in subsection 3, paragraph "a",
- 14 members shall be appointed prior to January 31 of each year in
- 15 which the committee is required to meet.
- 16 c. The committee shall elect a chairperson and vice
- 17 chairperson.
- 18 d. Members shall be appointed in accordance with section
- 19 69.16, relating to political affiliation, and section 69.16A,
- 20 relating to gender balance.
- 21 3. a. The committee shall convene and members shall be
- 22 appointed as soon as practicable as directed by the legislative
- 23 council during the 2021 legislative interim.
- 24 b. The committee shall convene every four years following
- 25 the 2021 legislative interim for the exclusive purpose of
- 26 reviewing and recommending updates to the pandemic preparations
- 27 of the state pursuant to subsection 4, paragraph c.
- 28 4. The committee shall do all of the following:
- 29 a. Prepare a complete account of the circumstances
- 30 surrounding the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic,
- 31 including mistakes and failures of the state government
- 32 in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and instances of
- 33 negligence and profiteering in the private sector. The
- 34 investigative duties of the committee shall be led by an
- 35 investigator from the attorney general's office and an

S.F. 519

- 1 investigator from the auditor of state's office. The committee
- 2 shall submit its findings to the general assembly March 1,
- 3 2022.
- 4 b. In preparing reports pursuant to paragraphs "a" and "d",
- 5 create and hear the reports of working groups on the following
- 6 subjects:
- 7 (1) Public health.
- 8 (2) Education.
- 9 (3) Workforce development.
- 10 (4) COVID-19 testing.
- 11 (5) COVID-19 vaccination distribution.
- 12 (6) Federal and state COVID-19 relief appropriations.
- 13 (7) State contracts and services.
- 14 c. Prepare a report making recommendations on what changes
- 15 should be made to increase pandemic preparedness in the state.
- 16 The report shall be submitted to the general assembly by
- 17 December 31, 2022, and reviewed every four years thereafter.
- 18 5. The committee may call witnesses, administer oaths,
- 19 and issue subpoenas, and cite for contempt during the conduct
- 20 of its investigation, subject to approval by the legislative
- 21 council.
- 22 6. Administrative assistance shall be provided by the
- 23 legislative services agency.
- 24 EXPLANATION
- 25 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
- the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.
- 27 This bill establishes a pandemic response review committee.
- 28 The membership of the committee shall consist of the chairs
- 29 and ranking members of the house and senate state government
- 30 committees, the attorney general or the attorney general's
- 31 designee, the auditor of state or the auditor of state's
- 32 designee, a chair of the division of infectious disease of the
- 33 department of internal medicine of the university of Iowa, and
- 34 such other persons as the legislative council deems necessary.
- 35 Members of the committee shall be appointed in accordance with

S.F. 519

- 1 gender and political affiliation balance requirements. Members
- 2 shall also elect a chair and vice chair.
- 3 The bill requires members to be appointed and the committee
- 4 to meet as soon as practicable during the 2021 legislative
- 5 interim. Thereafter, the committee shall meet every four years
- 6 and members shall be appointed by January 31 of each year in
- 7 which the committee is required to meet.
- 8 The bill requires the committee to investigate the
- 9 circumstances surrounding the state of Iowa's response to the
- 10 COVID-19 pandemic and investigate instances of profiteering
- 11 and negligence in the private sector. The investigation shall
- 12 be led by an investigator from the attorney general's office
- 13 and an investigator from the auditor of state's office. T
- 14 bill allows the committee to call witnesses, administer oaths,
- 15 and issue subpoenas, and cite for contempt, subject to approval
- 16 by the legislative council. The committee shall submit its
- 17 findings to the general assembly by March 1, 2022.
- 18 The bill requires the committee to convene and hear the
- 19 reports of working groups on public health, education,
- 20 workforce development, COVID-19 testing, COVID-19 vaccine
- 21 distribution, federal and state COVID-19 relief appropriations,
- 22 and state contracts and services.
- 23 The committee shall submit a report making recommendations
- 24 on what changes should be made to increase pandemic
- 25 preparedness in the state to the general assembly by December
- 26 31, 2022. The report shall be reviewed every four years.
- 27 The bill requires the legislative services agency to provide
- 28 administrative assistance to the committee.